

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY – BUT TAKE HEED

1 Cor 8:8-13

Childhood: from objective to subjective.

Objective	Subjective
Black and white	Generalities
<u>Objects</u>	<u>Issues</u>
Definites	Philosophies
Rules	<u>Principles</u>

When first come to know Christ-- every rule spelled out

Issue in Corinth: eat meat offered to idols?

Offense to weaker believers

1 Corinthians 8:8 Meat does not give us advantage before God.

Real issue is not meat!

***Barnes:** God looks at the heart. He regards the motives, the thoughts, the moral actions of people. The mere circumstance of eating 'meat,' or abstaining from it, cannot make a man better or worse in the sight of a holy God. The acceptable worship of God is not placed in such things. It is more spiritual; more deep; more important*

1 Corinthians 8:9 *take heed:* be careful about your choice.

Liberty: authority, right.

Stumblingblock: lies in path and will cause you to fall.

Be considerate of weaker Christian's.

The things you do will be taken to excess by immature believers.

Go back into idol worship.

1 Corinthians 8:10 *Sit at meat in the idol's temple:* attends family or community event involving meat in temple.

Emboldened: to build up; edify. Sarcasm.

Mature believers thought they were building up weaker believers...

Rhetorical question

Gromaki: You will "build him up" only to destruction.

Lenski: A demolition calling itself edification.

1 Corinthians 8:11 Doctrinally correct-spiritually wrong.

Perish: spiritual disaster. Ruinous damage. Induced him to sin. Matthew 18:6

Rom 14:1 *receive ye* -- welcome into fellowship.

weak in the faith: not rooted and grounded in Word.

receive ye. Accept without reservation.

Morris: *The weak are not to be made to feel that they are barely tolerated and seen as second-class members. They are to be received with warmth and true fellowship. Christian love demands no less.*

not to doubtful disputations: without arguing about his opinions and philosophies.

Accept him without trying to settle all doubtful points of difference

Rom 14:13 change focus.

Be critical of our own conduct

stumbling block: to cut toward or against, to strike against.

occasion to fall: Thayer, *The movable stick or trigger of a trap, a snare, any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall, any person or thing by which one is entrapped, drawn into error or sin.*

The greater amount of liberty of conscience must be governed by superior demands of love. Rom 15:1; 1 Cor 9:22; 1 Thess 5:14

1 Corinthians 8:11 *...for whom Christ died?*

Remember the price paid by Jesus to purchase their salvation.

1 Corinthians 8:12 *Sin*: miss mark...hit wrong mark.

Violate God's Word.

When cause weaker Christians to stumble you commit 2 types of sin

1. Against brethren
2. Against Christ. **Matthew 25:40**

Gromaki: *It is always easy to think of certain church members as unimportant. But they are not so. Christ lives in them. We should honour them as members of Christ, and beware of sinning against the Lord.*

...wound their weak conscience: striking vigorous blows, beating.

Inflicted major spiritual injury

1 Corinthians 8:13 I will eagerly limit my freedom so might not be an offense to a fellow Christian

SO WHAT?

Attitudes

Consideration and love

Willing to change behaviour so not be offense

Not quick to assert rights

Space to grow

Time to grow

Committed to process